

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Didier RAOULT, Michel DRANCOURT

Application No.: U.S. National Stage
of PCT/FR00/02481

Filed: March 4, 2002

Docket No.: 111985

For: SINGLE STRANDED OLIGONUCLEOTIDES, PROBES, PRIMERS AND METHOD
FOR DETECTING SPIROCHETES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 4-6, 9-11 and 15 as follows:

4. (Amended) Oligonucleotides according to claim 1, characterised in that "N" represents inosine.
5. (Amended) Oligonucleotides according to claim 1, characterised in that they comprise a mixture of oligonucleotides comprising sequences included in one of sequences SEQ ID N° 1 to 4 in which all of the nucleotides A, T, C and G are represented at each of the positions where "N" appears.
6. (Amended) Probe for the detection, in a biological sample, of bacteria belonging to the order of *Spirochaetales* characterised in that they include a nucleotide according to claim 1.